

ANNEXES TO THE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicants submit the following claims with strikeouts and underlining for the Examiner's convenience as required by new rule 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii). This paper is not intended to be entered.

1. (Amended) Device suitable for internally supporting vessels in particular circular vessels in the non-medical and medical fields, ~~such as transmission pipes and blood vessels, the urinary tract, the digestive tract, and airways,~~ said device comprising:

an outer wall, and

an inner wall in association with the outer wall, whereby both the inner and outer wall are expandable and contractible between an expanded support position, in which support position the outer wall contacts an internal surface of the vessel to be supported and a contracted displacing position wherein the device is displaceable to and from a pre-desired location in the vessel, and,

a releasable locking means for lock releasibly locking the device in at least one of the expanded support position and/or the contracted displacing position.

4. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the inner and outer walls comprise a first terminal part and a second terminal part.

5. (Amended) Device according to ~~claims~~ claim 3, ~~or 4~~ wherein the ring elements are interconnected by one or more linking members.

6. (Amended) Device according to claim 5, wherein the releasable lock ~~locking means~~ comprises an interlocking means mechanism provided on at least one of the first and/or second terminal parts.

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7. (Amended) Device according to claim 6, wherein the interlocking mechanism means comprises a catching element arranged on the first terminal part, said catching element being co-operable with a locking opening arranged on the second terminal part.
8. (Amended) Device according to claim 7, further comprising a guiding mechanism means ~~for~~ guiding the terminal parts over one another during at least one of expansion and ~~or~~ contraction of the device.
9. (Amended) Device according to claim 8, wherein the guiding ~~means comprise~~ mechanism includes one or more lip-sections in association with the first terminal part, which lip-sections cooperate with the second terminal part.
10. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further provided with a tracing agent, whereby the device is traceable when arranged in position with the body ~~by means of medical locating techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging~~.
11. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the claims 1-10~~ claim 1, further provided with a radio-active material in order to provide localized radiation therapy.
12. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, further comprising a medicament in order to locally treat a medical disorder within the body.
13. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, the device being pre-tensioned to assume in its resting state, either the contracted position or the expanded position, ~~preferably the contracted position~~.
14. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, said device comprising a memory metal which assumes at least one of the contracted and ~~or~~ expanded ~~portion~~ position when exposed to certain conditions.

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15. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein when occupying a removal displacing position, the first terminal part is overlapped by the second terminal part and when occupying an insertion displacing position, the second terminal position is overlapped by the first terminal position.

16. (Amended) Device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~locking means comprise~~ lock includes a male projection arranged on the second terminal part, interlockable with a female receiver arranged on the first terminal part.

18. (Amended) Assembly for treating body vessel disorders, said assembly comprising a device according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, and,
 ~~introducing and/or removing means for~~ an assembly configured for at least one of
 introducing and ~~or~~ removing the device to ~~and/or~~ from the desired location within a vessel.

19. (Amended) Assembly according to claim 18, wherein the assembly ~~introducing and or removal means~~ comprises and expandable/ and deflatable balloon catheter.

20. (Amended) Process for arranging a device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-17~~ within a body vessel, comprising the steps of,

 arranging the device in its contracted form around a balloon catheter, so that the device grips onto the balloon catheter,

 bringing the balloon catheter plus contracted device to a pre-determined position with a body vessel.

expanding the balloon catheter whereby the device is also expanded, to such an extent that the ~~releasabley locking means are~~ lock is locked in position, whereby in this expanded use position the balloon catheter may optionally be deflated and removed.

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21. (Amended) Process according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of reintroducing a balloon catheter into the vessel, expanding the balloon catheter against the inner wall of the device to such an extent that the device is further expanded in order to release the releasable lock ~~locking~~ means,

followed by deflating the balloon catheter whereby the device re-assumes its contracted position to grip around the balloon catheter,

whereafter the balloon catheter and device may be removed from the body vessel.

22. (Amended) Method for treating vessels, ~~for example transmission pipes or body vessels,~~ utilizing a device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-17 and or the assembly according to the claims 18 or 19.~~

23. (Amended) Use of a device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-17 and/or the assembly according to claims 18 or 19~~ for treating vessels of the digestive tract.

24. (Amended) Use of the device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 17 and/or the assembly according to claims 18 or 19~~ for treating vessels of the urinary tract.

25. (Amended) Use of the device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 17 and/or the assembly according to claims 18 or 19~~ for treating the vessels of the airways, ~~such as the trachea and bronchii, in particular in brachy therapy.~~

26. (Amended) Use of the device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 17 and/or the assembly according to claims 18 or 19~~ for treating blood vessels ~~such as arteries and/or veins.~~

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27. (Amended) Use of the device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 17~~ and/or the assembly according to ~~claims 18 or 19~~ for locally radioactively treating a body vessel.

28. (Amended) Use of the device according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-17~~ and/or the assembly according to ~~claim 15 or 16~~ for non-medical application, in particular for internally supporting transmission pipes ~~and the like~~.

31. (Amended) A method for manipulating a stent having a pretensioned contracted configuration, a first expanded configuration and a second expanded configuration, the method comprising the steps of:-

delivering the stent in a pretensioned contracted form to a desired site;

deploying the stent by expanding the stent to the first expanded configuration;

and

subsequently retrieving the stent by further expanding the stent to the second expanded configuration whereby the stent collapses.

33. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 31, ~~or 32~~ wherein the stent is retrieved by advancing a retrieval balloon catheter to the stent and inflating the retrieval balloon to expand the deployed stent to the second expanded configuration whereby the stent collapses.

36. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 34, ~~or 35~~ wherein the medicament delivery system comprises one of a craft and ~~or~~ a tissue containing a medicament.

38. (Amended) A stent as claimed in claim 37, wherein one of the tissue and ~~or~~ the craft comprises a first layer for drug delivery in one direction and a second layer to prevent drug delivery in an opposite direction.

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39. (Amended) A stent as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 36, ~~to 38~~ wherein the stent comprises a number of rings extending from a spine and one of the craft and ~~or~~ the tissue extends between at least some of the adjacent rings.

41. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 40, wherein the stent includes a generally spiral shaped element having a pretensioned configuration for delivery to a desired site, a first expanded configuration for deployment of the stent, and a second expanded configuration for retrieval of the stent, the stent having a medicament delivery system for delivery of a medicament at a target site ~~is a stent as claimed in any of claims 34 to 39.~~

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